

JUNE 2019

MICHIGAN MARIJUANA
NEWS & INFO



Vol. 1 Issue 7

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Report



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HERBERT HUNCKE'S AMERICA
EDITED BY JEROME POYNTON

NOTES

Greetings MMR fans and friends,

It is finally summer here in the mitten, and I am sure you are all as excited as I am about that. After a long and brutal Winter and Spring, we are all ready for some sunshine and warmth. On that note, we hope to see you all at the annual High Times Cannabis Cup in Clio this month. In lieu of the passing of the recreational cannabis laws, the cup will now be open to any person 21 years of age or older, and no longer an MMP card holder only event.

If you missed us for poetry with John Sinclair and music from the Corzo Effect and Annie Alkaline at the Beans and Rice event in Mt Morris last month, have no fear, you can check out the pictures on the wall which is featured on pages 28-29.

We here at the MM Report Magazine want to help promote you! If you have an event coming up and would like us to feature it in the magazine, or would like the magazine to make an appearance, please email us at mmmreport@gmail.com with the details.

Thank you for your continued support, and Have a wonderful June everyone. See you next Month!

Peace, Love and Unity,

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A licensee may not use deceptive, false or misleading advertising in any way, including on any marijuana product, sign or document.

Marijuana products may not be advertised in a manner that is visible to members of the public from streets, sidewalks, parks, or any public place.

A marijuana product must not be marketed or advertised to minors aged 17 years or younger. Sponsorships targeted to members aged 17 years or younger are prohibited.

Marijuana products may not be advertised on any television program, radio program, internet website, or print publication unless there is reliable evidence that 70% of the audience is reasonably expected to be age 18 years or older. Any marijuana products advertised in this manner must bear a warning label stating the following:

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Marijuana products must be marketed or advertised as "medical marijuana" for use only by registered qualifying patients or registered primary caregivers.

According to state law, a provisioning center licensed under the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA) may not refer to itself as a "dispensary" and may not use the word "dispensary" in its advertising.

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MM Report

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THCa	20.60%
Δ9-THC	0.54%
CBD	LOQ
CBDa	LOQ
CBC	LOQ
CBGa	0.21%
CBN	LOQ
THCV	LOQ
CBG	0.16%
TOTAL	21.51%

SKUNK BERRY


CANNABINOID	MASS
THCa	15.01%
Δ9-THC	0.97%
CBD	LOQ
CBDa	LOQ
CBC	LOQ
CBGa	0.97%
CBN	LOQ
THCV	LOQ
CBG	LOQ
TOTAL	16.95%

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THCa	22.83%
Δ9-THC	0.37%
CBD	LOQ
CBDa	LOQ
CBC	LOQ
CBGa	0.33%
CBN	LOQ
THCV	LOQ
CBG	LOQ
TOTAL	23.53%

GAS FACE


CANNABINOID	MASS
THCa	30.72%
Δ9-THC	0.70%
CBD	LOQ
CBDa	LOQ
CBC	LOQ
CBGa	0.80%
CBN	LOQ
THCV	LOQ
CBG	0.19%
TOTAL	32.41%

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*Total Potential Active Cannabinoids; This number represents the cannabinoid concentration when product is fully decarboxylated (cooked or burned) prior to consumption. *Medical marijuana for use by registered qualifying patients only. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222. This publication is not to be distributed to persons under the age of 18. (*See Page 5)

HEMP vs MARIJUANA: What's the Difference? By Meghan Smith

Cannabis is an integral part of our culture these days, but with that comes a need for education and empowerment. The passing of the Farm Bill was a huge step, however there seems to be quite a bit of confusion as to what exactly the bill means. To understand this, you first need to understand the difference. Hemp and Marijuana are terms that are frequently used in conjunction with one another, however they are not equivalent plants. Both are cannabis subspecies, however play very different roles.

Hemp	Marijuana
Psychoactive Content: Trace amounts 0.2-0.3%	Psychoactive Content: Yes, in varying quantities.
Estimated levels of THC: Low THC (<0.3%)	Estimated levels of THC: High THC (4%-35%)
Uses: Building materials, skin care, clothing, construction, amongst many other areas of industry.	Uses: Marijuana is generally grown for flower production, which are commonly used for either recreational or medical purposes.
Legality: The plant is generally considered legal if the THC content is below 0.3% in the US and below 0.2% for European standards.	Legality: Each country (or state in the US) will have varying laws, but is considered illegal across the majority of the globe.

First let's break down the terms THC and CBD; CBD, or Cannabidiol, is the non-psychoactive component of Cannabis that is known for its healing and medicinal properties. THC, or Tetrahydrocannabinol, is the psychoactive component of Cannabis. THC reacts psychoactively to create the "high" that you feel after ingesting cannabis, but it does so much more than just get you "stoned". CBD and THC work together in a biomedical communication system within the nervous system, called the EndoCannabinoid system. While CBD does not give you the "high" that is associated with Cannabis, it is instrumental in treating a multitude of conditions and symptoms.

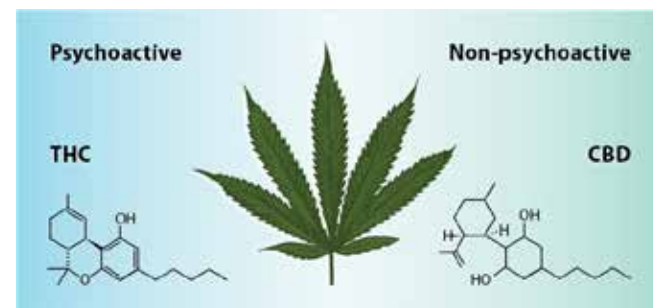
THC and CBD are not the only cannabinoids found within cannabis, there are numerous components, that promote numerous things. Another lesser known component in any cannabis species are Terpenes, a large group of volatile unsaturated hydrocarbons found in the essential oils of plants, which play a key role in differentiating the effects of cannabinoids such as CBD and THC. Some Terpenes may help to promote relaxation and stress relief, while others may help to

promote acuity and focus.


The two main cannabis subspecies that most people are familiar with are the Cannabis Sativa and Cannabis Indica. Sativa is a taller plant, with narrow leaves, longer flowering times and are generally lower in CBD content. Indica is a shorter plant, with broader leaves, shorter flowering times, and generally has a higher CBD content. Both of these subspecies however contain the psychoactive component THC.

For the sake of ease, let's look at it as such: mind, body, and soul. Cannabis Sativa (mind) has an energizing effect, and is used most often in the treatment of mental health conditions such as ADHD, and PTSD. Cannabis Indica (body) has a relaxant effect, and is used most often in the treatment of chronic pain and insomnia. Hemp (soul) does not contain any THC and is used most often for its fibers that are used to make a wide range of products that are both biodegradable and earth friendly.

Hemp is still a cannabis subspecies, however contains little to no THC and is used for industrial purposes. Same plant, but different genetics. Hemp has been used throughout history, for a multitude of products ranging from clothing and plastics, to medicine and food products. The Farm Bill 2018 legalized hemp, not the THC containing marijuana. Meaning that the cultivation, processing, and marketing of hemp derived products is completely legal in the U.S as a whole. Due to the lack of the psychoactive compound, hemp was finally disassociated with the scheduling of the THC containing cannabis. While hemp can be used to make CBD health products, most processors are opting for cannabis strains that were bred specifically for the purpose of having a high level of CBD, no THC, and medically relevant terpenes. By doing so, they ensure that all the appropriate components are able to work with one another in the manner they were meant to.



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MICHIGAN NEWS



Medical Marijuana Delivery Services Granted Licenses

Three licensed provisioning centers in Michigan, BotaniQ and Utopia Gardens of Detroit, and Lake Effect of Portage, have been granted licensing to launch the state's first legal home delivery services. "We know a lot of the patients we're going to be delivering to -- a lot of them are in wheelchairs," said Jevin Weyenberg, general manager of Lake Effect in Portage. "Convenient access to medicine -- you can never put a price on that. It's life-saving for some people."

Patients will only be able to receive the maximum daily allowance of 2.5 ounces, and delivery will only be permitted to the patient's home address, which also must match the address on their medical card. Delivery services will be permitted within municipalities that have opted out of cannabis based businesses. Each provisioning center must hire their own delivery drivers, carefully document all inventory, as well as track the delivery with GPS.

Wayenberg further stated, "It's the first time it's ever been done in the state of Michigan legally, We want to make sure everything is secure ... we want to make sure we're a hard target for any criminal that might try anything." Once their program is officially launched Lake Effect will take deliveries throughout Kalamazoo county.

Utopia Gardens, on Detroit's east side near Belle Isle, will be offering online ordering services, and will deliver within a 20 mile radius including Ferndale, Royal Oak, Birmingham and Plymouth. "Patients are getting tested product -- licensed, tested product. The quality is there, the test results are there, The patients are getting quality drugs and we're delivering them in a safe manner." said owner Stuart Carter.

While you can find various delivery services on websites such as Weedmaps, those services are all operating outside of the state's regulatory control. Both Weyenberg and Carter hope that their licensed service will help to cut down on the black market delivery services. "We want to be able to compete with them. They are taking some of the business via that route because there's demand for it," Weyenberg said of Weedmaps. "There's just a massive amount of demand, and the demand manifests itself in a lot of different ways. Delivery is one of them."



State Launches Online Medical Marijuana Certification Approvals

Beginning in May the state began to allow for online medical marijuana certifications. Medical marijuana patients applying online, will receive instant approval or denial, and can use their approval email to purchase medicine at provisioning centers accompanied by a valid state issued driver's license or identification card. The approval email will remain valid until the hard card has arrived, or for 10 days

after the date of the approval. In order to use the online service, a patient must first register for an online account, as well as the physician that is approving the patient for their card. Once both Physician and Patient have successfully created their online profiles, they can submit the online application.

"A process that used to take several weeks now can be done in a single day," said MRA Executive Director Andrew Brisbo. "We are excited to offer this new online approval option for the state's medical marijuana patients."

State Police To Crack Down On Cannabis Black Market

The Michigan State Police have announced that they intend to really crack down on illegally ran, black market cannabis businesses that have been recently blossoming at the expense of legally ran cannabis businesses. The Marihuana and Tobacco Investigation Section are teaming up with law enforcement and prosecutors to begin targeting the illegal businesses.

Since the passing of recreational laws in November, black market numbers have soared, including more than 200 illegal services listed on Weedmaps alone. The black market rush has severely impacted, and undercut the state sanctioned businesses that pay tens of thousands in legal fees, licensing fees, and taxes. Some provisioning centers have reported up to a 40 percent decrease in sales since the recreational laws were passed in November. Weedmaps does not require proof of licensing in order to advertise on their platform, and as a result many lobbyists are now pushing for licensing proof to be provided before any business within the state can advertise on any platforms within the state.

In an attempt to figure out how to approach the illicit market, legal experts have began talks with the State Attorney General's office to help law enforcement interpret the new recreational cannabis laws and regulations. One of those experts is Barton Morris, an attorney with the Cannabis Legal Group of Royal Oak whom stated "There is so much confusion about what is lawful and what is not, and there is so much disagreement about how to enforce the law. The black

market has been significantly growing and growing and growing. They are all trying to sell as much as they possibly can before law enforcement cracks down."

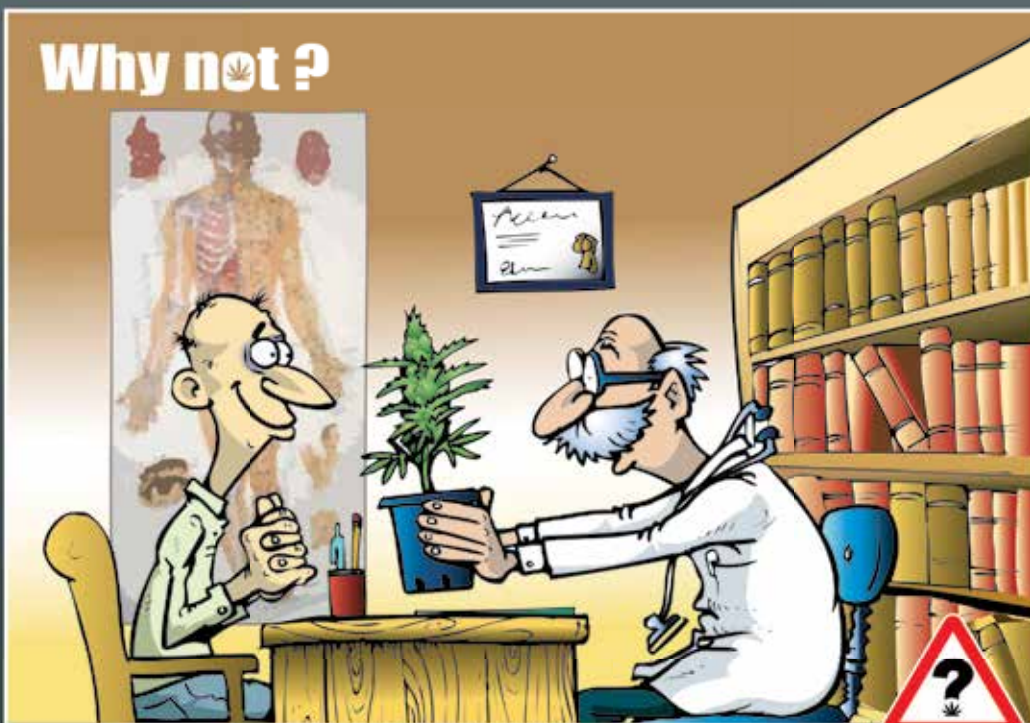
Lansing Says Medical Marijuana Won't Bring In As Much Revenue As Expected

Officials in Lansing are saying that despite the influx of hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical marijuana licensing fees, the medical marijuana program will not be a main money maker for the city. Stating that the cost of running a medical marijuana program will cancel out the revenue brought in from these fees, and that additionally the state excise tax that was implemented is slated to bring in less revenue as expected due to the passing of the recreational laws.

However, Lansing is not actually able to legally turn a profit from the fees and, businesses ultimately need licensing in order to grow, test, transport or sell cannabis products. Now Lansing officials are under pressure to prove that they are not turning a profit from said fees. If a city assess any fee collected as revenue, it is then considered a tax versus a fee, which requires voter approval.

Currently, Lansing is collecting \$5,000 annually (the highest amount allowed under the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act) from licensed businesses. They are projecting only around \$200,000 in the fiscal year of 2019, by stark contrast to the more than \$730,000 collected in 2018 at the beginning of the state's licensing program. They do anticipate that for the fiscal year of 2020 that number should increase to approximately \$500,000 however.

These projected numbers were pulled from an executive budget proposal which is up for approval by the City Counsel later his month. As this is the first time an executive budget has been proposed, it is difficult to measure the true cost of the medical marijuana program, however they anticipate that legal costs alone will approximate close to \$75,000 for the next fiscal year.



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NATIONAL NEWS



Stephen Sweeney (left) and Gov. Phil Murphy (right)

Politics and Corruption in NJ Waylay Weed

Gov. Phil Murphy (D) and Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D) are on the same side when it comes to marijuana in New Jersey. In late March both the Senate and Assembly were scheduled to vote on legalization. Now, two months later, Sweeney has announced that the bill will not move forward, instead it will go to the ballot in 2020. What happened?

In March a task force created by Gov. Murphy to investigate the states controversial tax breaks met with a whistle-blower who stated that her former company lied to win incentives. At the same time, an investigation by ProPublica and WYNC found that one of Sweeney's major backers, South Jersey insurance executive and political boss George Norcross III, was awarded \$1 billion dollars in tax breaks among his company, business partners, and brother. Nearly two thirds of the total tax breaks awarded in Camden. With political scandal comes media frenzy, and more work.

"The biggest problem we have right now is a lack of oxygen to talk about these things. The Senate President and the Governor aren't sitting down and talking to figure out how to get it done," said attorney Bill Caruso, a founding member of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform. "The legislators and staffers are distracted from trying to get the hard part done,

which is the fistfight to get those last two or three votes."

If legal weed does go to the ballot in November of 2020 the schedule would likely be worked into the bill, which would be barebones, leaving lawmakers to hash out the details later. This means New Jerseyans may have to wait as long as 2022 before they see their first legal shop.

Players Seek to Change NFL Cannabis Policy

As legal marijuana use gains traction in U.S. states, many nation wide institutions still hold to the old ways. The National Football league maintains a strict anti-drug policy for it's players which includes cannabis use, medicinal or otherwise. Under the current 2011 contract, players are tested once annually between April and August. The first positive result requires the player to enter into a substance abuse program without any suspension, and flags them for random drug tests throughout the year, including the offseason. A second, and each subsequent, positive leads to a two-game fine, then a four-game fine, next a four game suspension, finally ending with a ten game suspension for the fifth failed test. According to Spotrac.com, in the past five years 117 players have been suspended for positive test results, lost \$43.9 million in salary, and 552 days of playing time. While strict is a relative term, and these punishments may seem like a dream come true for anyone working a minimum wage job for an employer that terminates on the first offense, it still highlights the inconsistency in marijuana policy nationwide, and the players want it to change.

Although the league does not specify what drug the players were suspended for, Willis Marshall, a Detroit resident and professional football player, estimates



that 70%-80% of the infractions are for marijuana. "If it's steroids, they'll say it's steroids or performance enhancing drugs," he said. "And it's probably not alcohol or cocaine because that leaves your system a lot quicker than marijuana. And I can't see any players using heroin or meth and being able to play or even practice on those. So it kind of narrows it down to marijuana." Willis produces and sells a line of CBD-infused hair and skin care products under the DaO label. He believes cannabis is a better choice than opioids, which are rampant in professional sports, "Even in the Canadian Football League, where they don't test for marijuana, prescription drugs are a dime a dozen in the locker rooms. They hand them out like candy corn and that's an unfortunate thing."

Joining the cause are former Detroit Lions' players Calvin Johnson and Robert Sims, who made recent news by entering into the marijuana business, with plans for a line of cannabis called 'Primitive'. "The word Primitive comes from the idea that there is this medicine we used for thousands of years before we got into the opioids and stuff," Sims said. "We believe that the benefits and the healing from cannabis comes from a simpler time." With the contract up for renegotiation in 2022, he is hopeful that the league will loosen it's policy on marijuana, "Players should have the opportunity to use this. It's safe, no one has died from it and it should be made readily available to players."

Key Hearing Holds Fate of Cannabis Banking in California

California's Senate Bill 51 is designed to help marijuana firms acquire traditional banking services, from which they have been denied access thus far. Specifically, the measure would allow private banks or credit unions to apply for a limited-purpose state charter so they can provide depository services to licensed cannabis businesses. Most are forced to deal exclusively in cash due to the tight restrictions that make it impossible for them to have a bank account.

"Banks are scared to death, and they just don't want the expense and the trauma of exposing themselves," explains Gavin Kogan, chairman and co-founder of Grupo Flor, a California based retail cannabis and cultivation company.

Last year's Senate Bill 930, which aimed to create cannabis banks, did not pass legislature. Some have cited cost issues as the reason for it's failure, as the it would require the state to hire more employees. Others believe cost is just being used as an excuse by those who oppose marijuana legality. SB 51 would potentially create 12 new cannabis banks or credit unions, which would require the state to hire personnel such as examiners which would cost an estimated \$2 million a year.

FDA Newest Weapon Against Cannabis

In March the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along side the Federal Trade Commission, charged three CBD companies for being in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 301, et seq. ("FDA Act") and Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 41-58 ("FTC Act"). Relievus (a chain of pain clinics), Nutra Pure LLC (a CBD capsule manufacturer) and PotNetwork Holdings (a gummy manufacturer) are accused of placing "unapproved" and "misbranded" human drugs and adulterants" and "unapproved and unsafe animal drugs" into interstate commerce, as well as making false or unsubstantiated health claims. Each received a letter warning them to contact the FDA and FTC within 15 days of addressing their concerns and threatening legal action including product seizures, injunctions, and reimbursement of all sales proceeds.

The major concern is that the FDA and it's powerhouse alliance with the FTC provide absolutely no guidance on how exactly companies are to comply with either current or future regulations. Also, Internet sales account for the majority of CBD products sold, and the health and dietary benefits are what makes the products attractive to consumers, so virtually every product will be in violation, with zero pressure on the FDA to define what is and is not allowed. Couple that with a \$6.1 billion dollar budget with federal lawyers on leashes and the potential exists for one hell of an adversary.

The FDA is expected to create rules for CBD, including material information and dosage limits, at which point it will regulate them as dietary supplements, but no timeline exists nor are they under any obligation to act.

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WORLD NEWS



President of Mexico Unveils Plan to Decriminalize All Drugs

You read that right, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has a plan to end prohibition by decriminalizing all illegal drugs. According to his administration's 'National Development Plan for 2019-2024', "The 'war on drugs' has escalated the public health problem posed by currently banned substances to a public safety crisis," it adds that the current "prohibition strategy is unsustainable."

Cannabis is already on a set path to legalization in Mexico. Just last year the Supreme Court ruled the prohibition of cannabis unconstitutional. A bill to legalize marijuana and allow its commercial sale was introduced last November by Sen. Olga Sanchez Cordero and is making its way through the legislature.

As for the rest of the drugs, Obrador says Mexico will "renounce the claim of combating addictions by prohibiting the substances that generate them." His new plan will divert funding and resources from targeting those who suffer from addiction, to providing medical supervision, personal detox treatments, and regulated prescription doses. "The only real possibility of reducing the levels of drug consumption is to lift the ban on those that are currently illegal," the policy statement reads, "and redirect the resources currently destined to combat their transfer and apply them in programs - massive, but personalized - of reinsertion and detoxification."

Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno, executive director of the US based Drug Policy Alliance, praised the move, "Mexico's president is rightly identifying one of the major drivers of violence and corruption in his country: the prohibition of drugs. The next step is to translate words into action, by pursuing both a domestic and international agenda of drug policy reform, grounded in respect for human rights."



Carly Barton

UK Cannabis Growers Narc on Selves in Protest

It all started with Carly Barton, a 32-year-old art lecturer with fibromyalgia related chronic pain, the United Kingdom's first licensed medical cannabis patient. Frustrated with no access, and with no legal avenues, she started to grow her own medicine illegally, like many others in places where the law does not facilitate for cannabis. The difference? She sent a letter to Home Secretary Sajid Javid, the cabinet minister responsible for law enforcement policy, effectively telling the government she was breaking their laws. In an interview with Talk Radio Carly stated, "If I can grow my own, safely, I can be well. Unfortunately that carries a 14 year prison sentence." Her self-outing sparked a media frenzy and has inspired hundreds more to join in the protest by self-incriminating.

"From what I understand, police are behind the amnesty," said one protester, who wished to remain

anonymous, "They won't raid if they don't have to. For genuinely sick people in need of medicinal cannabis, they're on our side." As of mid-May, no patients had received responses from authorities after identifying themselves, according to Barton. The issue lies when a neighbor or third party alerts police, who are then obligated to respond. For many, the risk is more than worth it. Another anonymous protester put it plainly, "This is our chance to do something. I need to take this risk. I need to step in front to show the authorities that I am not a criminal. That's why I'm not hiding. I'm not doing something bad. I'm doing something for my health."



Dana Rohrabacher

Rohrabacher Predicts End to Legal Roadblocks

At the International Cannabis Business Conference the key note speaker, Dana Rohrabacher predicts that a series of bills will be picked up early next year, combining the different cannabis bills together to solve issues for states new marijuana laws, the federal hemp laws and banking rules.

Currently, Rohrabacher is the spokesman for CBD Global, INC. He went even further to say, "Before the next election I believe it will be passed. Trump has said he will sign the legislation. Trump will be the lead sled dog and take a giant step forward."

Low THC cannabis is legal in Switzerland. The Swiss limit on THC is one percent, and in many European countries the limit is less. Investors are securing this new legal market, with Companies like Mile High Labs out of Boulder, Colorado pioneering American and European strategies.



Matteo Salvini

Italy's Minister of the Interior Declares War on "Cannabis Light"

"A war starts today, street by street, shop by shop, district by district, city by city." Those were the words of Matteo Salvini, Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, while at a meeting of representatives from drug recovery organizations this past May where he vowed to close all "Cannabis Light" shops in Italy. "Cannabis Light", defined as cannabis with THC levels below 0.2%, was approved by the Italian government in 2017.

Paolo Monasterolo, CEO of Estonia based Adalia Holding, believes the move is more about the coming European Parliament elections than keeping people safe from low potency marijuana, "being Italian, I'm ashamed to see such behavior from the Italian Ministry of Interior, which is pure propaganda in times of European elections." Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development, Labor, and Social Policies, Luigi Di Maio stands in opposition to Salvini's call, "You can't get up in the morning and close shops. We should work to have shops opening."

According to Marco Cappiello, co-founder of CBD manufacturer Encta, "Salvini can't just shut down the legal hemp industry. At most, he can allocate extra resources to check the legality of what's being sold in the retail shops. They've been doing that already for awhile, so there's really nothing new here." Despite this, three shops were reportedly closed the day after the minister's declaration of war. The Italian Supreme Court of Cassation is expected to weigh in and provide clarity regarding "Cannabis Light" products soon.

Weed, BLOOD, and MONEY

Well, hello there! Starting this month, I'll be writing a series of articles on a personal favorite topic: the assholes who would like to stop you and I from enjoying legal cannabis. Many of us have wondered exactly who the political opponents of cannabis are and what their problem is, but not all of us enjoy the readership or the editorial leeway to get profanity-laced answers out to the people. Or an attention span that keeps 140 browser tabs open at any given moment. But never fear, reader, for I have two thumbs and all of the above, and I truly despise these people. I can also write at or above an eighth-grade level, often in the style of an unfrozen caveman or a very bad dog. And I hate their guts. So that's who the frick I am.



The drug war has been an insane, expensive disaster from the jump-off. The evidence for the health and wellness benefits of cannabis, in particular, is clear as day for anyone with the eyes to see it. It has never been easier to talk to someone whose life has been improved by cannabis, or to someone whose life was ruined by cannabis prohibition. And who even cares enough to try to stop cannabis legalization? What kind of pathology is at work here? Some people just aren't gonna get into it, and nobody else wants to waste their cannabis on you if you won't appreciate it. Thank you for minding my beeswax for me, but your beeswax appears to be all melty now. Settle down and act like you're a human being, please.

It's never been difficult to identify the people who didn't want me, personally, to use cannabis. It was

always the same guys trotting out the same talking points every time they got half a chance: police, politicians, principals, parents. Popes, priests, and pastors. Nobody ever wanted to see any of these alliterators show up at their house party. People plan their lives around ideas, and ideas need people to propagate them to ensure their continued success. But some ideas are good, and some are bad. It's easiest to implant a bad idea in someone's head when their defenses are down, when they lack the faculty to apply some basic critical thinking to the issue. People who aren't going to ask too many questions. That's why all of these "P" groups like to get at you when you're a child. Your brain is still developing. "Because I said so" is still a perfectly acceptable answer, and your follow-up question is "Can I go play Fortnite now?" Please keep your "P"-ness away from my child.

But even though these people disapproved of cannabis, it used to be none of them were particularly inclined to pony up their own money in order to stop me from enjoying it. Like really, all you had to do was give me \$40 for that eighth I just got. And \$5 for these wraps? Now you got nine Hot-N-Readies standing between me and my next trip to the guy's house for more weed. Problem solved for two hours. But times have changed. Cannabis is winning the war. Cannabis opponents are in full retreat nationwide after a series of crippling strategic defeats. Friendly legislators in the hold-out states who still wield enough power to kill legislation are being cut off, surrounded, and overrun. You can't filibuster a voter referendum. Rules committees can't toss ballots in the garbage. Sit down, fuckos, you're done. Instead, cannabis opponents are looking to settle in for a long war. They've cliqued up and re-aligned under shadowy soft-money organizations to oppose ballot measures, spitting in the face of democracy in its purest form. They're furiously cranking out garbage science and paying to get it published anywhere they can. They're directing and funding stay-behind operations to terrorize citizens in States where cannabis use is legal, often as they slink out of office themselves. My heart goes out to the dozens of people who were

hoping to buy cannabis in any of the boring little towns passing municipal bans right now. Except for Howell. Have you ever been to Howell? Cody, just move, dude.

The opposition to cannabis is all about money. That's why mercenaries do anything. I've written about this previously, but let's shame our way through the money list again quick. The five major industries paying to oppose cannabis are all doing so for no nobler reason than bare-ass greed. These industry groups can be divided into two categories. The Police-Industrial Complex is represented by police unions, prison guard unions, and private prison corporations. The second category is reserved for the real scumbags. They're drug-pushers, made bloated and wealthy by muscling alcohol and pharmaceuticals onto the legal market.

It's not hard to see what motivates either group. For law enforcement, prohibition means more federal and state money for enforcement. More cops putting more people in more prisons. For rival drug-makers, legalization would mean more consumers spending more money on cannabis products, instead of on pissy yellow lagers or whatever the sexy new high copay "-azepam" is. For both groups, investing in prohibition now is an obvious way to ensure profitability and job security in the future.

Totally unrelated. The nicest thing it's possible to say about an India Pale Ale is that it smells like weed farted in it. Nobody really likes IPAs. Hops isn't a flavor. Did you ever ask grandma for a hops birthday cake? Do you want some hops-flavored gum? Hops edibles? You're goddamn right you don't.

And that's a whole lot of money. But you can have all the pig feed in the world, if you don't have hogs you ain't makin no bacon. Jim Beam could write a check out tomorrow to my old Pastor McHaircut with the used Cadillac and the used Cadillac salesman patter, but he can't stop a ballot initiative getting passed. I've been to that church. These days he's reaching 40 people a week, and not a one with fleece less white than snow. That's not muscle. Now please excuse, reader, a brief shortcut through the weeds.

Libel /'laɪbəl/
noun

1. Law .
 - a. defamation by written or printed words, pictures, or in any form other than by spoken words or gestures.
 - b. the act or crime of publishing it.
 - c. a formal written declaration or statement, as one containing the allegations of a plaintiff or the grounds of a charge.

(Libel. Dictionary.com Unabridged, 2019)

The Supreme Court has also come up with a test for "actual malice", which is required for an award of damages in an action for libel involving public officials, public figures, or matters of public concern. In America, truth is an absolute defense to libel proceedings.

Pig /pɪg/
noun

- a person who is financially wealthy and does not share his wealth.
- a police officer.
- one who eats to excess.
- a chauvinistic male.
- a slob.
- an overweight person.
- a lecherous male.

(Fig. The Online Slang Dictionary)

"The problem with the police is not that they are fascist pigs but that our country is ruled by majoritarian pigs."

- Ta-Nehisi Coates, Between the World and Me

Be sure to tune in next month for my senseless assault on Mel Sembler and wife Betty, and for the sick, sad, and ultimately unbelievable story of Straight, Inc.



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A Column by John Sinclair



Hi everybody, it's nearing the end of May and still too cold for comfort, but I'm writing my 99th consecutive column for MMReport and next month I'll celebrate number 100 in this series. That's quite an achievement for a beat-up old man like myself, seeing that I was almost 70 years old when I started writing here in the first issue of this magazine released at Hash Bash 2011.

I'm still struggling with a plethora of physical problems in my old age but I'm making big progress and even starting to take some steps across the room without my walker holding me up, so that's something else to be happy about as well. Shoot, I'm just happy to be alive and still kicking, and I'll enjoy this blessed state as long as they let me.

When we started the marijuana legalization movement in Michigan more than 50 years ago, our dream was that we could get the boots of the police and courts off of our necks and put an end to their right to arrest and imprison us for getting high and getting other people high as well.

The community of marijuana users was a small one that grew person by person as we passed our joints from one friend to another and then made sure they would be able to get high when they wanted to by supplying them with portions of our own hard-come-by stash. The weed came from Mexico in relatively small amounts and found its way from user to user in a slow and organic process that became faster and larger as the years went on.

The marijuana community experienced natural organic growth as more and more people learned how great weed was and the beautiful things it did for one's physical health and mental outlook. Marijuana use spread exponentially

until millions of people were smoking it and singing its praises. Musicians were especially susceptible to its allure and found that smoking weed enhanced the creative process in amazing ways.

Our cannabis culture, predicated strictly on getting high and sharing, burgeoned throughout the sixties, culminating 50 years ago in August 1969 when half a million obviously stoned music lovers gathered in the mud at Woodstock to get high together and dig some incredible music.

Although hippies had consistently been aware of the growth of our alternative culture year by year throughout the decade, the massive gathering of long-haired dope fiends at Woodstock was the first indication experienced by square America that something big was going on which they couldn't understand—or, as the Bard put it, “something is happening but you don't know what it is, do you Mr. Jones?”

The first to understand were the right-wing maniacs in the White House led by Richard Nixon, Spiro Agnew, and Attorney General John N. Mitchell. They began the hasty erection of an impenetrable wall around the citadel of American mainstream culture by declaring a “War on Drugs” aimed at hippies and at the black community, the two seedbeds of effective opposition to the government and its ever-spreading war in Vietnam.

The War on Drugs transformed hippies from innocent seekers of truth and mental enlightenment through music, marijuana and LSD into serious criminals subject to harassment, arrest, prosecution, conviction on felony charges, and lengthy prison sentences. Every marijuana

smoker was a target of local, county, state and federal narcotics police, for the simple reason that the authorities chose without any scientific basis to classify marijuana as a narcotic.

The next sector of the establishment to catch on to what was happening with the hippies was the music business, which quickly built a whole new empire on the bands and singers that had played at Woodstock and their comperes.

Within an incredibly short time the music community was transformed by the entertainment industry from a loose culturally aligned group of bands and creative artists seeking new forms for musical and emotional expression to a money-hungry constellation of recording stars reaping millions of dollars from their record contracts and radically altering the shape and content of their music to find a uniform sound more easily graspable by the masses.

Concomitantly the generation of hippies from the sixties was growing older, graduating from college, coming home from the armed forces, bearing children, getting jobs and facing the reality of making a living in America. By the mid-1970s they had been transformed into a new generation of hard-working consumers making good money but subject to drug testing in order to keep their jobs and climb the corporate ladder.

By this time the cultural movement that had arisen in the '60s was over and its advances and insights thrown onto the junkheap of history by the corporate media that had taken over completely from the underground newspapers and “underground” FM radio stations that had emerged as central components of our movement.

Cultural venues were no longer intimate clubs, dance halls and ballrooms holding from a few hundred to a couple of thousand people who danced and listened to the music of bands who worked without the benefit of a hit record on the radio. Now the music was presented in large concert halls and sports arenas without a trace of intimacy or human communion, at exorbitant prices and in ugly settings with terrible audio and visual presence.

Perhaps worst of all from this writer's perspective was the beginning of the end of the original cannabis culture we had created during the hippie period and its transmogrification into a crass commercial proposition centered on which weed was the “best” and how much money could the grower and retailer get for it.

Now with the coming of legalization the commercial proposition is maturing and getting bigger and bigger, threatening to overwhelm the surviving remnants of the

classic cannabis culture like the concept of care-givers that was ensconced in the Medical Marihuana Act passed by the voters in 2008. Recently the big marijuana corporate sector has been taking out full-page ads attacking care-givers and grass-roots growers and calling their weed dirty and unhealthy.

This is some sick shit, but I'm pretty sure it's going to get worse and worse. That's why I keep harking back to the “good old days” of the cannabis culture and try to make sure that some of the roots of our movement continue to persist and grow, however tenuously.

My good friend and co-conspirator Dr. Christian Greer has let me use a couple of paragraphs from a current work of his to close out this ruminative column. Christian is examining the marijuana culture and the phenomenon of cannabis legalization from the perspective of cannabis sacramentalism and says:

“Over the last half century, despite persecution by governments at every level all around the world—and there is no way to underemphasize the violence committed by the law against cannabis users—hip people developed a refined culture of street-level cannabis sacramentalism.

“In the modern era, to be certain, the repeal of cannabis prohibition on the federal level will lead to an even greater increase in the number of marijuana users, and it is not improbable that a portion of these people will assign spiritual significance to what their predecessors in the '60s called ‘the holy herb.’

“While the legalization movement has grown from medical to what they call ‘recreational’ use, we should be clear that the phrase ‘recreational marijuana’ is a legal euphemism coined by state legislators during the prohibition era of the War on Drugs campaign. Indiscriminately imposed on a variegated ecology of ‘hip’ social customs and practices, this piece of legal jargon obscures the religious dimension of cannabis use.”

Well, amen to all that, and let's try to cling to some of the positive modes of marijuana history despite the commercialism that surrounds us and keep up the pressure to Free The Weed!

—Detroit
May 19, 2019

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HOMEMADE PRODUCT

Joel M Pratt
Founder, The Cannabis Factory

Hello friends,
Welcome to another edition of The Bakery with The Cannabis Factory! Check us out on Instagram @thecanabisfactory.

In this article I want to explain an easy way to make a product at home that can be used for dozens of other products in your path to health.

HONEY – Making honey is very easy and very healthy for you as well. You can use honey to medicate in many ways including using it in your tea or even making your very own granola bars!

First off, you're going to need a decent size crock pot. You don't want something too small, then you over fill and learn about it the hard way when you go to stir and watch it bubble over the sides. When choosing your crock pot, make sure your product is sitting half up from the bottom of the crock pot.

Once you have your crock pot, place your non-medicated honey inside and turn it on low. Also, you will be adjusting the temperature as you go during this process. Once your honey is starting to warm up, you add in your product that you are using for infusion, you have two methods you can choose from, flower or concentrates.

If you use flower, decide how much you wish to use, make sure you decarb your flower (see MM reports May issue – The Bakery for more information on decarboxylation) then wrap your flower in cheesecloth and be sure to tie the ends before placing into the Honey. This will save you a massive step later. Once tied off, place directly into the honey.

If you are using wax, shatter or crumble then the method can be much easier. However, you will still need to decarb your concentrate first by placing parchment paper (DON'T USE WAX PAPER! IT'S NOT THE SAME!) Inside of a 13x9 or 9x9 pan and ensure you line the pan with the parchment paper. Depending on your oven, you will be setting your oven from 220-270 degrees and it will take about 40-60 minutes for the entire process. Once you see the concentrate has completely melted and has no small bubbles on top, it is ready to be taken out. Let the concentrate cool in the pan for 10-15 minutes, then fold up the parchment paper and place into the freezer for about 5 minutes. Once the concentrate is frozen, you can take it out of the freezer and using a metal utensil and gloves, remove the concentrate from the parchment paper and place it directly into your honey you have warming.

Now that you have your flower or concentrate added into the crock pot, you want to leave the crock on low for about 1 hour. Come back and stir and then let set for 1 more hour. Come back and stir and turn your crock pot to warm. If you can avoid it, you don't want your pot getting above 140 degrees so having a thermometer is the best practice when making medicated honey. This will stop the honey from burning which makes it turn out disgusting and you would end up throwing most of it away.

Once on warm, stir the pot every hour for 5 hours. Low cook, longer time, gets you the best results I have found in this field.

After the time is up, if you used flower, you will need to let the honey cool before touching it with gloves because you will want to ring out any excess honey on the cheese cloth. Then dispose of the wrap flower in cheesecloth. For shatter, just simply let the honey cool before consuming. Also, please continue to stir while your honey cools. Then enjoy! I hope this was informational and please visit @thecanabisfactory on Instagram for more information!



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OPEN CALL TO YOUNG FARMERS IN GREECE



By Ben Horner

The Lesvos Plant Medicine Conference Center Library (LPMCCL) is a library start-up devoted to plant medicine. LPMCCL focus is creating digital access to historical text and the latest plant medicine research for farmers, their children and “hemp-care” tourists visiting Lesvos, a Greek island in the Aegean Sea. Theophrastus, the founder of Western plant medicine, and Aristotle, student of Plato, studied natural life on Lesvos — Theophrastus began Botany and Aristotle documented Biology on the crossroad island between East and West.

LPMCCL founder, Jerome Poynton, has completed the first phases of the project by introducing the concept at the International Library Convention in Chicago in June of 2017. In 2018, Mr. Poynton, with the help of medical marijuana experts in the USA, began developing a worldwide market, LPMCCL Medical Cannabis Chocolate, to fund plant medicine librarian

salaries. Currently LPMCCL full spectrum, cannabis chocolates are being sold in Michigan at licensed medical marijuana provisioning centers. Under the library’s label more products for the American and European market are in development to fund project vision.



On May 10th 2019 Mr. Poynton, released a call to ‘Young Farmers’ on Lesvos — with an interest in entering the world-wide green cannabis wave — to conference in seaside farming village of Vatera, on Lesvos’ — in Harry and Stephanie’s family-owned café on the beach. Many farmers were spoken to individually and a small group



met to learn about the library and discuss the possibilities of creating a hemp/cannabis olive oil to serve the farmer’s interest and the vision of Lesvos Plant Medicine Conference Center Library.

LPMCCL announced the Young Farmer medical hemp/cannabis ‘growing’ program of Greek legal cannabis to create full spectrum, whole plant cannabis oil infused in Lesvos olive oil, making a unique “hemp/cannabis infused olive oil edible” blend for direct international export. The goal is to raise the value of olive oil on the Island for cultivators.

Attending were several young farmers from the island. These youngsters are subsidized by the Greek government to encourage the next generation of agriculture. Olive groves and sheep are the primary source of farming on the Island. Due to Italian dominance in the olive oil commerce in Greece, the market for olive oil is economically depressed. Jerome explained his plan to develop hemp cannabis farms in and around the olive groves. Setting a goal to experiment with different strain varieties. The farmers questioned how to get approval from Greek authorities for scaled hemp farming in the spring of 2020? A select group of volunteers agreed to test seeds this year and develop



procedures for testing and compliance come Spring.

The following day, Poynton traveled inland, up serpentine mountain roads, to tour a new olive press. Overlooking the groves a local family installed a state of the art press, which is one of the few producing uncut olive only for commercial use on Lesvos. Discussions for cannabis-infused, medical grade olive oil to export around Europe and to the USA were optimistic and frank.

Operators interested in licensing Lesvos Plant Medicine Library products should contact Jerome Poynton at: LesvosPlantMedicineLibrary@gmail.com



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JUNE 2019 EVENTS

June 6

Adam Sandler 100% Fresher Tour
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Van Andel Arena

June 6 - 9

Roseville Rose Fest
 Roseville, MI
 Veterans Memorial Park

June 7 - 9

Ya'ssoo Ann Arbor Greek Festival
 Ann Arbor, MI
 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

June 8

Arts, Animals and Awakenings Festival
 Dearborn, MI
 Dearborn Historical Museum

An Acoustic Evening with John Anderson at Kewadin Casinos
 Saint Ignace
 Kewadin Casino St. Ignace Event Center

National Cereal Fest
 Battle Creek, MI
 Festival Market Square

80's/90's Pub Crawl
 Wyandotte, MI
 Downtown Wyandotte

June 8 & 9

Flint Art Fair
 Flint, MI
 Flint Institute of Arts/Flint Cultural Center Campus

High Times Cannabis Cup Michigan 2019
 Clio, MI
 Auto City Speedway

Dragon's Fire Medieval Faire
 Lake Orion, MI
 Olde World Canterbury Village

June 14

Collective Soul & Gin Blossoms: Now's the Time Tour
 Mount Pleasant, MI
 Soaring Eagle Casino Entertainment Hall

Laurence Juber in Concert
 Muskegon, MI
 Muskegon Museum of Art

June 14 & 15

Michigan Pride March, Rally & Festival
 Lansing, MI
 Capital Building

Sunrise Solstice Art and Music Festival
 Tawas City, MI
 Shoreline Park on the Tawas Bay

June 15

Grand Rapids Pride Festival 2019
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Calder Plaza

June 17 - 23

Yankee Doodle Days
 Grand Ledge, MI
 Jaycee Park

June 21 - 22

Summer Solstice Jazz Festival
 East Lansing, MI
 Downtown East Lansing

June 22

Founders Fest 2019: A Celebration of Beer and Music
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Founders Brewing Co.

The Series Presents: The Moxie Strings at Lavender Hill Farm
 Boyne City, MI
 Lavender Hill Farm

June 24

Shawn Mendes - The Tour
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Van Andel Arena

June 27 - 30

Common Ground Music Festival
 Lansing, MI
 Downtown Lansing

Taylor Summer Festival
 Taylor, MI
 Heritage Park

June 28

80's in the Hole Music and Car Festival
 Flint, MI
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June 29

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#freemybuds: Social Media Cannabis Injustice

By Meghan Smith

Cannabis culture is sweeping the globe, and the veil of false stigma is finally beginning to lift. However, sadly with the federal ban still in place, canna-businesses are struggling to market their brands and businesses on social media. Platforms such as Youtube, Facebook and Instagram have been famously restrictive of any canna-content, and use an array of AI technology and algorithms to monitor, police and silence the masses. Approximately one out of every six americans support the legalization and mainstreaming of Cannabis, yet can't voice their opinions on social media without being targeted.



The past few years have seen a multitude of changes surrounding how these platforms have addressed canna-content. Facebook for example, did not even allow for cannabis related pages to show in users' searches until approximately a year ago. Thankfully, the social media giant has finally changed their search restrictions and now allows for verified legally ran businesses to show in search results. This is a very small step in the right direction, yet there are still so many leaps and bounds to be made. Cannabis marketing experts say that there are ways to promote your business or products on social media, you just have to get creative. For example, avoiding certain keywords and phrases, and avoid posting pictures of the actual flower.

Social media is a powerful digital marketing platform, so these restrictions are severely impacting businesses' abilities to reach their clientele. Facebook and Instagram do allow for the sale and/or marketing of

certain cana-products such as CBD products, seeds, and paraphernalia. However, they still do not allow for the marketing of cannabis itself, even within states with full legalization such as here in Michigan. Facebook, as well as Instagram have recently even launched AI software that scans feeds for anything that resembles cannabis. It is becoming harder to distinguish what is allowed and what is considered a "policy violation" on the various platforms. Facebook does not outline any specific parameters besides to state "Ads must not promote the sale or use of illegal, prescription, or recreational drugs." In May of this year, Facebook's chief technology officer Mike Schroepfer recently demonstrated the media giant's new watchdog AI software at their annual developers conference. The program was able to distinguish a blown up image as being cannabis with 93.77 % accuracy. Instagram frequently uses a process called a shadow ban, which essentially hides certain hashtags from showing up in searches. Basically, even if your post is set as a public post, the only people that will see the hashtagged content are your immediate followers.

In an attempt to minimize their own risk of social media bans, a lot of canna-companies have taken to paying weed-fluencers to do the work for them. It takes the heat off of their profiles, but at a greater financial cost due to having to pay the influencers to take the post ban risk onto themselves. Another strategy is to work with publications, such as



magazines and newspapers. Because the content is considered editorial, it can be shared on social media via their pages and platforms which again minimizes the risk to the company's pages. LinkedIn seems to be the only mainstream social media platform that does not actually ban cannabis content, however it is not generally a preferred marketing platform. There are also cannabis specific platforms such as Potsmoking.com, and Grasscity Forums however those platforms do not even come close to the reach that Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube command.

Individuals using their own private accounts to market or advertise cannabis products can be at risk of post bans, and repeat offenders may even have their pages permanently deleted. I personally have had my own accounts banned for periods of time due to my various roles in the industry. So why exactly is it that we live in a legal state, operate legally licensed businesses, yet are not allowed to use social media to market our businesses or products? Well the answer ultimately lies with the federal government's refusal to lift the blanket ban on the nation as a whole. Until they lift the schedule status of cannabis, platforms are too reluctant to take in any revenue for cannabis advertising.

Recently it was announced that an official lawsuit has been filed against Facebook Inc, the social media giant that controls both Facebook and Instagram. Felicia Palmer, founder of the longest-running hip-hop news website in the world, SOHH.com, and her new company, Cannaramic Media, Inc, filed the lawsuit with the help of Litigation attorney, David C. Holland, Esq., who serves as the Executive Director for the New York chapter of national marijuana advocacy organization, NORML. The filing came in response to multiple advertisements, intended to promote their educational Cannaramic Online Summit, were rejected as well as their follower profile banned temporarily. The suit comes at a perfect time, it was filed the same day that the White House announced that they will be monitoring Facebook censorship.

We the people here in Michigan voiced ourselves loud and clear by voting to legalize cannabis, however we still can't utilize the world's largest marketing platform!? Doesn't seem fair does it? Just one more way for the federal government to try to keep us quiet, but we won't be silenced so easily. We will continue to brand, and we will continue to advocate. Keep up the good fight fellow Ganjapreneurs! #FreeMyBuds

HOROSCOPES



ARIES

March 21 - April 19

Hey guess what, it's going to be 80° and sunny this month! Too bad you're in jail.



TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

The Cosmos has a lot in store for you this month, the moon rising in Gemini indicates.....wait. Why am I bothering to write this, we both know you don't even read these anyways.



GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Stop trying to make "fetch" a thing.



CANCER

June 21 - July 22

Stop being so paranoid all the time, not everything is a conspiracy against you. Also, be sure to throw salt over each shoulder, and hop on one foot while screaming like a chimpanzee for 5 minutes every morning. I can't explain why -- star stuff. It's important though, I promise.



LEO

July 23 - August 22

Have you ever seen that movie *She's Just Not That Into You*?



VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

For God's sake Virgo, can you just get your shit together this month please? Need I repeat myself every single month!? It's getting a little old.



LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

This month the stars show that you should stop being a selfish jerk all the time! You won't, and we know this, but you really should.



SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

Things get adventurous for you this month, I mean not like going somewhere adventurous, but more like order a new item off the menu at the local grease hole kind of adventurous. You're still boring is what I am getting at here in case you didn't catch that.



SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

You're probably too high to read this but here goes; the stars indicate something will happen to you, involving someone else, at some point in time this month.



CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 19

You will feel some relief this month. Whether it is because you finally found inner peace or because you have forgotten something really important, the stars were not so forth coming. So, good luck figuring that one out.



AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

The stars are saying that you may experience some difficult legal matters this month. Again. One would think there is a limit to how much trouble one zodiac can get into, but even if there was you would just keep pushing it anyways.



PISCES

February 19 - March 20

What's with the cocky attitude!? Contrary to what you may think, you are not as hot as Aquaman.....wait are you Aquaman though!? Because if you are Aquaman my email is listed in the front. I'm just saying....the rest of you however, carry on.

GROW TIPS

"sea of green"

The Scrog or "Sea of Green" technique is one of the most productive tools for growing cannabis. Using this method, the plant requires no training by means of bamboo stakes, but rather uses a net-like screen called a trellis to shape a canopy of flowering points. This will increase the amount of top buds (also known as kolas). Although the shape can change, the principles stay the same. Several methods have been adopted to produce excellent results for different growing areas.



The Vertical Scrog

This method uses the surrounding structures and walls to create a vertical sea of green. This can maximize yield from small grow rooms, such as closets and crawl spaces. By running a trellis over a surface, that entire surface can become a sea of green. Using this method, the entire light can be surrounded by one plant or only a few. Remember to plan carefully because disassembling a setup like this in mid-cycle can be a real nightmare.



The Horizontal Scrog

This is the most common sea of green method. Depending on your growing space, plants are topped with a stretched trellis before flowering. As the plant grows, the branches are pulled back down below the screen to branch the plant out, rather than let the branches grow tall. This creates many kolas, or top



buds, at multiple points on the plant. One problem with using a trellis with multiple plants is moving or adjusting the plants as they become more intertwined with the trellis. For that reason, many growers only have one or two plants per trellis so they can be moved easily.



HERBERT HUNCKE'S AMERICA

Life on the Fringes of the 20th Century
Life Before the Beat Generation

NEW ORLEANS, 1938
BY HERBERT E. HUNCKE



Edited By Jerome Poynton Literary Executor

I recall a night in New Orleans on St. Charles Street—walking. It had been raining—the streets were glistening—pools of rainwater reflected the night. Sounds of drops of water dropping and splattering on the leaves of the magnolia trees. The streets were deserted—only an occasional passing automobile. I was crossing a side street when as I glanced up I saw a man approaching. He was about my own height. He was of stocky build, inclined a bit toward fat—wearing dark trousers and a white shirt open three buttons at the neck—exposing a heavy growth of black hair. His complexion was swarthy—his eyes were small and dark brown. His hair was black and oily which he wore combed straight back from his forehead. His hands were in his pockets—a dangling cigarette hung from the corner of his mouth.

As I gave him a light for his cigarette he stood in front of me—waving—sort of off-balance—placing his hands on my shoulders—squinting his eyes—staring into my face—saying, “You look like a nice guy. I bet a person’s color doesn’t make any difference to you. Want a drink? Come on—I’ll buy you a drink.”

I was strictly on the bum—any situation had—so to speak—to be taken advantage of—also I was curious about the man.

We turned off St. Charles Street—walking in the direction of—I believe—South Rampart Street near a railway depot. Reaching Rampart Street we entered a saloon—almost the first we

encountered. The interior was lighted by a single unshaded lightbulb hanging suspended in the center of the room. A large neon-trimmed jukebox occupied space along one wall. Several tables surrounded by straight back chairs were placed around the room—at one slouched a dark-skinned Negro—wearing blue denim overalls—his arms and hands hanging limp toward the fore—his head resting on the tabletop. At the bar—which was painted bright orange—two men stood talking. A record with a lot of horns and beating drums was on the jukebox.



We stood at the bar drinking wine. The man was telling me something about cockroaches. He kept saying, “Never kill a cockroach—never kill a cockroach.” Several were walking around the spots of spilled wine and beer—waving their antennas. Suddenly he said he wanted to get laid. “Let’s go and find a bar where there are some women—come on—I know where one is—it’s not far—just around the corner.”

We departed Rampart Street for about two blocks.

The street was bare—lined solidly on either side with stores. One street light shone dimly—set high up on a pole—two men were walking—hands in their pockets—talking—hurrying—just out of the glow. We turned down a side street a short distance into a store—the glass windows painted black on the bottom halves. Inside—another unshaded lightbulb—a few tables—no jukebox but a number of people—some standing at a short bar of unpainted lumber. A few were women—rather bedraggled appearing—none young—clothing rather shapeless—hanging askew. They were speaking, almost shrilly, moving around—laughing, watching everything with their eyes. One came slightly stumbling toward us—carrying a wine glass—saying, “Is you going to buy me a drink—honey?” She was thin—not young—her hair sticking out in stiff wisps from beneath a black hat. She was short in stature—light brown in color—with small facial features—her mouth narrow—open showing bad teeth—two or three missing in front.

The man bought her a drink. They began talking—joking lasciviously at one another. He asked her what she charged for a lay. She said, “A dollar—I’m a good lay, mister—I’ll show you a good time.” He replied, all he had was seventy-five cents—and he wanted me to go along and watch. She agreed. She led us out of the barroom down the street to a small brick building set back a small space from the street—lighted inside the hallway at the top of a flight of stairs by a gas-jet flame—into a room just off the top of the stairs—holding a large brass bed—a dresser and mirror with a kerosene lamp burning, sitting on the surface in front of the mirror—a straight-back chair and a small table—a large white crockery pitcher—a bowl set on top of a bedside stand.

Without removing her hat she flopped backward on the bed—pulling her skirts up around her waist. He approached her clumsily—finally lowering his weight down on her—his pants partway down to his knees. They began squirming

and panting. She began repeating obscenities—supposedly to excite him—interspersing remarks about him being good—also saying, “Come on, daddy—oh—daddy—you’re good—you’re make baby feel good.”—moving rapidly and frantically. This lasted a long while—until perspiration was rolling down their faces making a squelching sound as they would come together.

Suddenly he stopped—arose from her—mopping his face with a handkerchief—then fumbling pulling on his pants—saying, “I ain’t going to pay you—nothing happened—you ain’t any good.” She stood up—her clothing half-falling into place as she sort of tugged at it—saying, “Please, mister, I did the best I could—it’s hot—you been drinking—please, please white man—I needs the money—a half dollar—that’s half—a quarter so I can buy a drink.”

I had been sitting. He motioned for me to leave ahead of him. As I walked through the door he followed close behind. We moved rapidly down the stairs—back out to the street in the general direction of St. Charles Street. Reaching a better-lighted area—we stopped—saying good night. He gave me a dollar just before he stumbled away—disappearing into the night. I never knew whether he gave the woman any money or not.



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BUD OF THE MONTH



ORANGE POPS

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